

Dear Friends,

How many times do we have to hear about young white men armed for war shooting to kill people? How many times do we hear that it is too soon to talk about gun control? How long do minority people have to live in fear of the next shooting, the next traffic stop, and being told and shown they are not welcome? There is a power called white supremacy in our nation. It shows up blatantly in white nationalists, Nazi groups, and the KKK. It shows up not so subtly on newscasts when a white young man has a 'mental illness' when he shoots at people, but any minority boy or young man is automatically a thug when even brandishing a weapon, much less shooting at someone.

Jon Stewart once quipped, "If you are tired hearing about racism, just think about how freaking tired it must be living through it." I, probably like many of you, am tired of talking about racism and minorities are truly tired having to live surrounded by it. But, we cannot let those who believe there are races and it affects what a human being is worth dominate or control the conversation. There are different levels of it, which makes it harder to eradicate.

The young man who committed terrorism in Buffalo cited the new "go to" of Great Replacement Theory. This is based on a racist book from long ago which named it the "White Replacement Theory" in that there is a secret group that is trying to kick out white people from their rightful positions of privilege and power by out-populating the white people with minorities. Tucker Carlson, on Fox News, has been touting this 'theory' for several years and blaming the 'Democrats' for trying to take away white power by bringing in 'minorities' who are easier to control and will empower the secret evil leaders who control the world. There is not enough space to explain how racist this is on so many levels. This is echoed by politicians, business leaders, 'journalists', and people we know and probably love (family and friends) all over our nation.

Racism and all its bogus conspiracies have some strong roots in our nation, but I don't think those roots will hold. Yes, around 20 years from now, there will be no majority race/ethnic group as 'white's will no longer make up the majority of our population and citizenship. This is not being accomplished by some nefarious scheme by some evil group. This is happening because the world and its population changes over time. In

many ways our nation is better than it has even been before in our race relations, and we still have a long way to go.

We believe and proclaim a God of love in who all humans are created in their image. We believe and proclaim a religion that boldly claims, "In Christ there is no male nor female, slave nor free, Jew nor Greek, for we all are one." We believe and proclaim a nation in which "All persons are created equal in the sight of God." We still have to live into this, struggle for it, and heal from the powers and principalities that deny or distort it. Let us continue to do so.

Peace

*Pastor Enno*